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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/868,029

09/23/2002

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7254/63012

5455

530 7590 11/18/2008
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EXAMINER

BILGRAMI, ASGHAR H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2443

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/18/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/868,029	Applicant(s) MIYAZAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner ASGHAR BILGRAMI	Art Unit 2443	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-15, 17-31, 36 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-15, 17-31, 36 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/12/2008, 10/10/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2-15, 17-31, 36 & 37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co et al (9-179549) {submitted as IDS} and Walden (4,081,850).

3. As per claims 36 & 37 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co disclosed a portable {since it can fit in pocket therefore it is portable, please see figure 2 on page 8 of the foreign reference} recording and/or reproducing device (Figure 1, page 8 of the foreign reference and page.8 ,paragraph.9 of disclosure document 9-179549) , comprising: a storage medium for storage digital data (page.10 , Paragrpah.14 of disclosure document 9-179549); a manipulating unit configured to provide a reproduction instruction for causing reproducing said digital data stored in said storage medium (Figure.1, element 14 of the foreign reference & Page.13, Paragraph.25 of disclosure document 9-179549); a reproducing unit configured to reproduce said stored digital data a control unit configured to read said digital data from said storage medium in accordance with said reproduction instruction from said manipulating unit, send the read digital data to said reproducing unit, and control said reproducing unit so as to perform

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reproduction processing on the read digital data (Page 16, Paragraphs 37 & 38 of disclosure document 9-179549); and a housing case containing said storage medium, said control unit and said reproducing unit (Page 15, Paragraph 34 of disclosure document 9-179549 & figure 1). However Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co did not explicitly disclose a strap attaching unit provided on one end side of said case; and a strap to be attached to said strap attaching unit, said manipulating unit is arranged on a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said housing case at the one end side thereof. In the same field of endeavor Walden disclosed a strap attaching unit provided on one end side of said case; and a strap to be attached to said strap attaching unit, said manipulating unit is arranged on a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said housing case at the one end side thereof (col. 1, lines 35-50 & col. 3, lines 9-14). It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated a strap attaching means as disclosed by Walden onto a portable recording and/or reproducing device disclosed by Mills in order to make the device more easier to carry by an individual resulting in improving the portability aspect of the device by a user.

4. As per claims 2, 17 and 20 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, comprising: digital-to-analog converting means for producing an analog signal by digital-to-analog converting said digital data which has been subjected to the reproduction processing by

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said reproducing means (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, page 15, Paragraph.34 of disclosure document 9-179549 & figure 5 of the foreign reference ; and a jack provided on said one end side in said longitudinal direction of said case to allow an external connection plug to be inserted therein, which has a terminal for outputting said analog signal obtained from said digital-to-analog converting means to Said connection plug inserted, and wherein said strap has a ring part (Walden, col.1, lines 35-50 & col.3, lines 9-14). and a holding means for integrally holding a code introduced from said connection plug and said ring part (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, (Page16, Paragraphs.37 & 38 of disclosure document 9-179549).

5. As per claims 3 & 21 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co -Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, wherein said jack is provided in said case so that said connection plug is projected from the other end side toward one end side in said longitudinal direction (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Page16, Paragraphs.37 & 38 of disclosure document 9-179549).

6. As per claims 4 & 22 Mills-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 3, wherein said jack is provided so that the direction of inserting said connection plug is slant with respect to said longitudinal direction of said case (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Page16, Paragraphs.37 & 38 of disclosure document 9-179549).

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7. As per claim 5 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co -Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36 (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Page16, Paragraphs.37 & 38 of disclosure document 9-179549), comprising strap attaching means which is provided on said one end side in the longitudinal direction of said case for attaching a predetermined strap thereto (Walden, figure1, col.1, lines 35-46 & col.3, lines 9-14).

8. As per claim 6 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 5 (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Page16, Paragraphs.37 & 38 of disclosure document 9-179549), wherein said strap attaching means allows said dangling strap to be attached thereto (Walden, figure1, col.1, lines 35-46 & col.3, lines 9-14).

9. As per claims 7 & 23 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co -Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, comprising: a circuit board which is contained in said case with loading an Integrated Circuit package (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Page16, Paragraphs.37 & 38 of disclosure document 9-179549) which constitutes at least a part of said control means; and projecting parts for containing a part of said circuit board, which are formed so that a part of said case projects in accordance with the form of said circuit board (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Page11, Paragraphs.18 of disclosure document 9-179549).

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10. As per claims 8 & 24 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co -Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 7, wherein said projecting parts are formed in said longitudinal direction of said case (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Figure 1, page 8 of the foreign reference and page.8 ,paragraph.9 of disclosure document 9-179549).

11. As per claims 9 & 25 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, comprising a clip which is provided on said one end side in said longitudinal direction of said case to attach the case to a user's body, clothes, and belongings (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Figure 1, page 8 of the foreign reference)

12. As per claims 10 & 26 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, comprising: an interface for taking in said digital data which is transferred from outside; and recording means for recording said digital data taken in by said interface, to said recording medium (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Figure 1, page 8 of the foreign reference and page.8, paragraph.9 of disclosure document 9-179549).

13. As per claims 11 & 27 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co -Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 10. However neither Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co nor Walden explicitly disclose wherein said interface takes

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in said digital data which is transferred from said outside on Internet. In the same filed of endeavor Mills disclosed wherein said interface takes in said digital data which is transferred from said outside on Internet (Mills, col.11, lines 9-11).

It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the functionality of transferring digital data from the internet as disclosed by Mills on the portable recording and/or reproducing device disclosed by Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co and Walden in order to make the device more versatile resulting in acquiring recording and playback data capability from additional venues.

14. As per claims 12 & 28 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 11. However neither Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co nor Walden explicitly disclose wherein said interface is a connector based on the Universal Serial Bus standard. In the same filed of endeavor Mills disclosed wherein said interface is a connector based on the Universal Serial Bus standard (Mills, col.5, lines 59-67).

It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated USB connector as disclosed by Mills on the portable recording and/or reproducing device disclosed by Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co and Walden in order to make the device more versatile resulting in acquiring recording and playback data capability from additional venues.

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15. As per claims 13 & 29 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36. However neither Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co nor Walden explicitly disclose wherein said control means read out said digital data which has been compressed with the MPEG Audio Layer-3 method, from said recording medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction input with said manipulating means. In the same filed of endeavor Mills disclosed wherein said control means read out said digital data which has been compressed with the MPEG Audio Layer-3 method, from said recording medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction input with said manipulating means (Mills, col.7, lines 65-67 & col.8, lines 1-13).

It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated MPEG Audio Layer -3 {A.K.A MP3} capability as disclosed by Mills on the portable recording and/or reproducing device disclosed by Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co and Walden in order to make the device more versatile resulting in recording and playback data capability in additional formats.

16. As per claims 14 & 30 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co -Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36. However neither Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co nor Walden explicitly disclosed wherein said control means reads out said digital data which has been compressed by the Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding-3 method, from said recording medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction input with said manipulating means. In the same filed of

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endeavor Mills disclosed wherein said control means reads out said digital data which has been compressed by the Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding-3 method, from said recording medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction input with said manipulating means (Mills, col.3, lines 10-25).

It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated data which being compressed by the Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding-3 method as disclosed by Mills on the portable recording and/or reproducing device disclosed by Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co and Walden in order to make the device more versatile resulting in recording and playback data capability in additional formats.

17. As per claims 15 & 31 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co -Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, wherein said case is formed in a cylindrical form (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co, Page.15, Paragraph.34 of disclosure document 9-179549 & figure 1).

18. As per claim 18 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 17, wherein said ring part comprises: band member; and sticking means for sticking one end on the back plane of said band member to the other end on the front plane of the band member (Walden, col.1, lines 35-50 & col.3, lines 9-14).

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As per claim 19 Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co-Walden disclosed the portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 18, wherein said sticking means is a sticking tape for detachably sticking said one end on said back plane of said band member to said the other end on said front plane of the band member (Walden, col.1, lines 35-50 & col.3, lines 9-14).

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments filed 7/31/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

20. Applicant argued that the newly amended independent claims are not anticipated by the prior art.

As to applicant's argument examiner has introduced new art to reject the claims.

Conclusion

21. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

22. Downs et al (U.S. 6,226,618 B1) disclosed electronic content delivery system.

23. Diakoulas (U.S. 5,915,609 disclosed belt harness and support.

24. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ASGHAR BILGRAMI whose telephone number is (571)272-3907. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tonia L.M. Dollinger can be reached on 571-272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/A. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 2443

/Tonia LM Dollinger/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2443